

REMARKS

This is in response to the Final Office Action dated July 1, 2011. With this response, claims 1, 2, 11, 13 and 16 are amended, claims 10 and 12 are cancelled, new claim 67 and 68 are added, and all pending claims 1-5, 8, 11, 13-19, 33, 34, 37-42, 44-61, 64 and 67-68 are presented for reconsideration and favorable action. This Amendment is being filed in connection with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE). An Information Disclosure Statement is also submitted herewith.

In the Office Action, the claims were rejected to and objected based upon their language. It is believed the objection and the rejection may be removed based upon the Amendment.

The claims were rejected under 35 USC § 102 based upon Zapushek US6854302 or Orbell US5279137.

In the claims, claims 12, 13 and 46-61 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

With this response, independent claims 1 and 2 have been amended to include the subject matter of dependent claim 12. Applicant submits that amended independent claims 1 and 2 are patentably distinct from the cited references.

It is still believed that the subject matter of former independent claims 1 and 2 is novel and inventive over the newly cited Zapushek reference. However, in order to advance the present proceedings, the independent claims 1 and 2 have been amended on the basis of the Examiner's suggestions for allowable subject matter (section 7 of the Final Office Action).

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue, or comment, including the Office Action's characterizations of the art, does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue, or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment or cancellation of any claim

does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment or cancellation. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute the rejection claims in further prosecution of this or related applications.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that the present application is in condition for allowance. Consideration and favorable action are respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTMAN, CHAMPLIN & KELLY, P.A.

By: Judson K. Champlin/

Judson K. Champlin, Reg. No. 34,797
900 Second Avenue South, Suite 1400
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-3244
Phone: (612) 334-3222
Fax: (612) 334-3312

JKC:lrs/rev